

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 5-29 were rejected, and claims 3 and 4 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1, 4, 21 and 28 are amended, and claims 2 and 3 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1 and 4-29 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification do to the length of the abstract. The abstract has been amended by the present response, and is believed to conform to the applicable rules. Reconsideration and removal of the objection are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101. However, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4, which were not rejected on this basis. Applicants note that no other rejection or explanation of the objection was formulated by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to indicate the allowability of claims 3 and 4.

By the present response, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, and their subject matter has been added to claim 1. Because claim 3 was not rejected, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

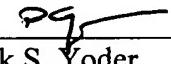
Subject matter essentially identical to that added to claim 1 has also been added to independent claims 21 and 28. Accordingly, those claims, along with the dependent claims from all three independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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